



The Florida House of Representatives

Office of the Speaker

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Speaker

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Paycheck Protection Passes House Appropriations Committee

Tallahassee, Fla. – House Bill 1021, Paycheck Protection, today passed the House Appropriations Committee and is now available to be placed on Special Order. HB 1021, if adopted, would prohibit an automatic withdrawal of funds from a public employees' paycheck for union dues and purposes of political activity. The bill also requires an annual written authorization from all union members before any individual dues can be spent for political purposes, and prohibits a union from requiring a worker's authorization as a condition of membership in the union.

"The decision to make a political contribution is one the individual worker should play a role in," said Representative Chris Dorworth (R-Lake Mary), sponsor of HB 1021. "Without the protections provided in HB 1021, employees who disagree with political campaigns that the union supports are left with the option of not joining the union, or helping to fund a campaign they do not support."

Regarding the bill's prohibition on public employer payroll deductions for union dues and other political purposes, Representative Dorworth added that the purpose "is to avoid the reality or appearance of government favoritism or entanglement with partisan politics."

"Considering the severity of the current economic downturn our state's citizens currently face, we believe it is prudent to allow employees to determine when and how to spend their hard-earned paycheck," said Representative Seth McKeel (R-Lakeland), chair of the House State Affairs Committee. "This legislation aims to remove state and local governments from handling the collection of union dues and other deductions made for the purposes of political activity and is intended to protect and empower the union worker by giving them the freedom to choose how and for what purposes their union dues are spent."

For more information on House Bill 1021, please visit www.MyFloridaHouse.gov.

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